

**KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**  
**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 22, 2010**  
**4:00 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge**

**Members Present:** Amy Springer (Chair), Nancy Bess, Denise Boyd, Florence Boynton, Jule Dupre, Stephanie Joyce, Byron Koh (Secretary), Aaron Kropf, Helen MacMellon, Kathy Woods Masalski, Nancy Pagano, Yuko Takahashi

**Others:** Aaron Hayden, (Select Board Liaison),

**Members Absent:** Bill Hutchinson

**Minutes of May, 2010:** Accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Florence reported that there is \$1519.13 in the KSCC account at Town Hall.

1. **Amy's comments** for the minutes provided by her:  
Town Assembly of Kanegasaki has approved the Mayor's visit

Saturday Nov 6: Mayor plus 2 (or 3) town representatives arrive in US

Sunday Nov 7: Arrive in Amherst in afternoon

Sunday afternoon: Light sightseeing around town

Sunday evening Nov 7: Gala party

Monday Nov 8: Meetings with town officials

Monday evening Nov 8: Address Town meeting

Tuesday morning Nov 9: Sightseeing in Amherst

Tuesday afternoon: Leave for NYC

Wednesday Nov 10: Sightseeing in NYC

Nov 11: Leave for Japan

We need volunteers to help with transport to/from Boston and, if available/interested, to help guide them for Thoughts about sightseeing in NYC or Boston if the schedule allows.

What to discuss, from Mr. Takahashi:

The future relationship with Amherst. Currently limited to sending our students to Amherst and book exchange. Maybe, we can add other components, i.e. some relationship with Emily Dickinson Homestead, also would really like to welcome students from Amherst. And then maybe also exchanges of general citizens.

He also mentioned an interest in meeting with: the Select Board, Town Manager, the Director of the Jones Library, the School Superintendent and Principal of the Amherst middle school, and the members of the KSCC. (and I'd add, the director of the Emily Dickinson museum).

2. **Aaron Kropf reported** about his family's trip to Japan and Kanegasaki this summer. He acknowledged Aaron Hayden's help in his contacting a Japanese family in a nearby city to Kanegasaki and the Committee's help in arranging his wife's visit to a school in Kanegasaki. She was visiting Japanese schools for her doctoral research. Aaron said his family had a wonderful trip, full of hospitality.
3. **In the discussion about the Mayor's visit** the following comments and suggestions were offered:
  - Yuko said that there might be four in the Mayor's party: the fourth might be the translator. She can meet the Mayor's party in Boston with Nancy and Helen to help show the party the city.

- Nancy will arrange to rent a van from Potter's that will be kept for the whole visit.
- Stephanie will arrange a Tuesday meeting with the Mayor and the Amherst School Superintendent.
- Denise suggested a visit to the Eric Carle Museum that she knew the party would love. When there, Aaron K. suggested lunch at Atkins. And while in South Amherst Nancy P. suggested a meeting with Yoshi, a Japanese artist who lives in South Hadley and is known to the Mayor might be arranged.
- Amy will arrange the meetings with the town officials listed above in her remarks.
- Stephanie offered her husband as a driver to take the Mayor's party to New York City that both know very well. Aaron H. may be able to help as he is driving there about this time.

## 5. **Sunday dinner** – Kathy

- Kathy and Nancy B. met with the Dining Services Director at Amherst College. With his exceptionally useful help, they decided on a reception rather than a sit-down dinner with an open bar, 3 stations, and six traveling stations that will last one hour. After this, those assembled will move into a larger room, and be seated for speeches, toasts. The estimated price per person will be \$25; the **Committee agreed** that the ticket price will be \$35 to defray the costs.
- Nancy B. will do the flowers.
- Kathy offered a list of 30 names found from the Committee's archival material at the Jones. Other suggestions were to send the invitation to the Anne of Green Gables group, past Committee members, students and parents who have traveled to Kanegasaki.
- Suggestions about the letter: have different versions, ask those who will be invited and not charged (4) to contribute, have one letter with the material in brackets in the draft letter moved to the first paragraph.
- Kathy will ask with the Committee's approval the 5 College Asian Studies program to pay for any teachers who attend and the Mayor's party. **The Committee approved.**
- Aaron K. suggested that the high school jazz band be asked to perform, Aaron H. would invite Morris Dancers and Nancy would ask a background music group.
- Asked to speak for Amherst will be the Town Manager and the Select Board Chair.

## 6. **Mailing for the Reception**

- Target date: October 1
- Agreed:** one letter
- Florence reminded us that it takes 3 weeks for a check from the Committee's funds to be processed through Town Hall.
- Kathy, Jule, Amy will revise the draft by email and plan to stuff envelopes at the 9/28 meeting. invitation letter. Nancy P. will post this meeting.
- Aaron H. will provide Town seal lapel pins which can be given as gifts to the Japanese delegation. Kathy distributed pins with the flags of Japan and the United States for each committee member and asked them to wear them on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. **Gifts**

- Aaron K. proposed that greeting cards be done by Amherst secondary students with scenes of Amherst, friendship, peace: 10 cards with 5 art works with suitable inscription and the student's name and age. These would be gifts for the Mayor's party. In the future, these could be used as a fundraiser for the Committee and the Art Department at the high school. He has done a similar project. If approved, he will get started and have samples ready for our next meeting. He estimates the start up costs at \$200; he is willing to provide these costs. **The Committee approved.**

- Nancy P. suggested that perhaps Michelson Gallery would have watercolors paintings of Amherst scenes that would make a good gift.
- Byron said that he would be willing to contribute \$35-\$50 if such cards were to take the place of the gifts that individual Committee members buy for the Kanegasaki folks who come in March.
- For a gift, Aaron H. could frame a copy of a picture that he took of the Japanese cherry tree blossoms in Amherst. These trees in Amherst were sent by Kanegasaki years ago.

#### **8. Translators**

- Yuko will translate from English to Japanese at the Reception. She knows someone who can translate from Japanese to English for \$30 an hour with a minimum of 3 hours.

#### **9. Other Meals for the Mayor's party**

- For Monday: we discussed dinner at either Bertucci's or Judie's at 5:30 PM. Yuko will bring her Japanese language students to meet the Mayor. Since Judie's is expensive for her students, this dinner will be discussed further. After the Town Meeting presentation, Nancy P. will drive the contingent to the ABC for beer and snacks. Aaron K. will meet the group there and it is hoped that other Kanegasaki SCC members will also participate. (Nancy P. is a Town Meeting member and will want to return to the TM if possible.)
- Tuesday lunch will be discussed at the Committee's next meeting. One suggestion was lunch in the school cafeteria.

**-Meeting Adjourned at: 6:15 PM**

**-Next Meeting of full Committee: October 6, 2010 at 4 PM at the Bangs Center.**

**-Respectfully submitted:**

**Byron Koh (Secretary) with assistance from Nancy Pagano (staff liaison)**